3. Course to be adopted when the Corpse is in a state of Putrefaction.—The presence of putrefaction is not, as a general rule, a sufficient reason for omitting the examination, and does not justify the Superintendent in refusing to proceed with his duties. For even if putrefaction be very far advanced, any abnormalities and injuries of the bones can still be ascertained, and likewise many other circumstances, such as the color and state of the hair, the absence of limbs, &c., which may assist in establishing the identity in doubtful cases. Foreign substances within the body may also be discovered, as also the presence or absence of pregnancy and of poisons. When, therefore, the question arises of disinterring a dead body for the purpose of gaining information with reference to conditions of this kind, it is the duty of the physician to recommend the exhumation, regardless of the time that has elapsed since death took place.

4. Instruments.—The Superintendent should be provided with the following instruments, which are requisite for the performance of the examination: Four to six scalpels—two small, with a straight edge, and two large, with a curved edge; one razor; two strong cartilage knives; two pairs of forceps; two double hooks; two pairs of scissors—one pair large, having one blade with the point rounded off, the other sharp—the other pair small, one blade probe-pointed, the other sharp pointed; one pair of scissors for laying open intestines; one blow-pipe; one thick probe, and two fine ones; one saw; a mallet and chisel; a pair of bone forceps; six curved needles of various sizes; a pair of calliper compasses; a tape measure or other measure; pair of scales, with weights up to 10 lbs; a good magnifying glass; litmus and tumeric paper.

5. Place for the Examination and Light.—For the examination a sufficiently spacious and light room should be chosen, where the body can be placed in a suitable position, and in a quiet situation. It is not best to perform autopsies by artificial light, except in cases which admit of